

From: [Alan D. Leveille](#)
To: [Stover, Michael](#)
Subject: Powerpoint slides- summary
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 2:54:46 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
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Hi Mike-

Please see the attached slides for your use-

Regards,
Alan

Initial Investigations (September- November):

- 84 Features recorded
- 78 assigned Native American origins
- 6 assigned 18th & 19th century

Of the 84 features identified, 33 (39%) were subject to evaluation and verification via excavation and analyses. The selected features were those identified by NITHPO and PAL, in consultation.

Evaluation Preliminary Results (November – December) include that, of the 33 features:

- *All were considered to be purposefully dug pits & deposits -where subsequent to use their initial surfaces had been impacted and/or removed by more recent landscape changes*
- *48% were deeper than 40cm during excavation (n=16)*
- *89% contained shell (n=27)*
- *64% contained bone fragments (n=21)*
- *42% contained aboriginal ceramic fragments (n=14)*
- *89% contained lithic chipping debris (n=27)*
- *6% were formal human burials (n=2)*
- *30% had associated post molds (n=10)- including both confirmed burials*

SOME IMPLICATIONS CONSIDERING THE TIDEWATER DRIVE RESULTS



- The area of the Mill Cove Site (as indicated **here**) is approximately **170-acres**
- The excavated trench along Tidewater Drive exposed a total area of approximately **½-acre**
- **78 pre-contact Native American features** were verified
- Projecting those results we can extrapolate a density for the site of approximately **150 features per acre (4 of which could be burials)**
- Accordingly, we can anticipate **+/- 25,000 features (650 of which could be burials)** across the Project area.
- If we speculate that between **50% and 70%** of the features across the site *have been destroyed by historic development*, a range of between **12,500 and 7,500 features can still be expected (325-195 of which could be burials).**

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Mill Cove Archaeological Site is highly significant. It contains data that has added, and promises to continue to add, to research on pre-contact and contact period Native American village life in coastal southern New England. *It is one of only two definitive villages identified in the region to date (Salt Pond, Narragansett, being the other).*

The cultural ecology of Native American village formation and life prior to, during, and following European settlement has here to fore been entirely dependent upon written historical accounts. **The Mill Cove Site will change that.**

With temporal components dating, in part, to the King Philip's War era (1675/76) this site can also contribute to **conflict-related research on that topic.**

As the sewer project proceeds, ongoing **consultation, communication, and collaboration between all parties will be imperative.** Protocols for archaeological data recovery and related analyses need to be comprehensive And far-sighted in the light of discoveries to date.

- The EPA needs to make a *Determination of Effect* on the site relative to the undertaking
- The NITHPO needs to reach a decision regarding either preservation in place or removal and re-burial for features 23 and 38. Furthermore, NITHPO should consider whether protocols for as yet identified burial features will be determined on a case by case basis as discoveries are made, or the establishment of a Project-wide policy applicable to past and future burial discoveries for the duration of sewer construction.

Alan Leveillee, MA, RPA
Senior Archaeologist
aleveillee@palinc.com

PAL

Cultural Resource Management

26 Main Street
Pawtucket, RI 02860

401.728.8780 main
401.728.8784 fax
401.288.6315 direct
401.487.0861 cell
www.palinc.com

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